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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University of South Carolina Receives More Than \$23,000 from U. S. Department of Energy

(Columbia) – U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has announced that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will award \$23,030 to the South Carolina Energy Office to fund the installation of E-85 ethanol-based refueling infrastructure at USC's Columbia campus. The South Carolina Energy Office is a unit of the State Budget and Control Board.

USC has 70 flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) and maintenance trucks that will fuel exclusively on E-85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. The E-85 fuel will displace nearly 43,000 gallons of gasoline each year, and improve air quality. USC's Vehicle Management Office plans to hire graduate students to format the operational costs-per-mile data and compare it to gasoline fuel comparable data. Performing this analysis will also contribute to the student's learning experience.

USC has a proven track record with using alternative fuels. USC's Motor Vehicle Division has been using biodiesel in its highly visible shuttle bus system, moving more than 4,500 students, faculty and staff around the campus daily. Six of the eleven shuttle buses run on biodiesel, a blend of 20 percent vegetable oil and 80 percent diesel fuel, which greatly reduces harmful air emissions. Biodiesel is also used in the equipment by the Campus Landscaping and Grounds Department, servicing green areas in the campus core.

"The alternative energy efforts of the University of South Carolina are helping our state reduce its dependence on foreign oil, improve our environment, and stimulate our economy," said John Clark, Director of the South Carolina Energy Office.

For more details on these projects, visit the South Carolina Energy Office's website at www.energy.sc.gov. Click on the "News and Notables" link.

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University of South Carolina Ethanol Infrastructure Installation: SCEO received \$23,030 in

Alternative Futures: SCEO received \$150,000 in funding to construct a state-of-the art biofuels storage and distribution facility in Aiken, South Carolina. Once completed, this site will hold up to 260,000 gallons of ethanol and biodiesel. Fuel displacement resulting from this project will be approximately 1 million gallons per year in several Southeastern states.

Clean Cities Coalition Support - Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition: SCEO received \$20,000 in funding for support of the coordination of the Clean Cities program in South Carolina. The purpose of this project is to ensure continued coordination and staffing of the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments. Funding will ensure continued momentum gained after the Coalition's official Clean Cities designation on August 4, 2003

for projects, marketing, and increased use of alternative fuel and alternative fuel vehicles. Funding will enable promotion and building of infrastructure to support increasing use of alternative fuels by state and local government in the nine county coalition region.

South Carolina Biomass Market Development Program (SCBMDP): SCEO received \$80,000 in funding to help develop biomass-based technologies, and expand markets for biomass-based products in the state, regionally and nationally. It will also support development of technologies and markets that contribute to the economic viability of bio-refineries. SCBMDP will also develop innovative state and/or local incentives that will facilitate increased market development for bio-based power, fuels and other valuable products.

Rebuild South Carolina: SCEO received \$130,000 in funding to expand its Rebuild South Carolina program to service and support existing partnerships and to negotiate new partnerships. Rebuild South Carolina provides comprehensive energy efficiency assistance to state and local governments, colleges and universities and K-12 schools. Work under this program involves energy needs analysis and planning, project selection and implementation, financing, and measurement. Low-interest loans are also available under the ConserFund loan program for energy conservation improvements. Partners receive the Energy Office's guidance throughout the life of each project.

QUOTE FROM JOHN CLARK

States, territories and the District of Columbia competed for these DOE awards which provide specialized funding in addition to annual formula grants given to each state energy office. While actual award dates will vary, DOE anticipates making the awards in September.

The South Carolina Energy Office has been very successful in assisting industries, state agencies, and public school districts obtain grants and/or loans for the development and implementation of new, energy-efficient process. Since 19**, the SCEO has secured \$****,**** in Special Projects funding..

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